

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 4 and amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An inner rotor motor comprising a rotor which includes a plurality of magnetic poles arranged circumferentially and a stator which is positioned outside a circumference of the rotor, has a stator core which includes ~~a plurality of~~six magnetic pole teeth which face the rotor in an opposed manner and arranges coils on respective magnetic pole teeth,

wherein pitches of the magnetic pole teeth in a rotor circumferential direction along which respective rotor facing surfaces of the magnetic pole teeth are arranged are set smaller than pitches of the rotor in the rotor circumferential direction along which the magnetic poles of the rotor are arranged.

2. (Original) An inner rotor motor according to the claim 1, wherein the pitches of the rotor in the rotor circumferential direction along which the magnetic poles of the rotor are arranged are set 1.5 times greater than the pitches of the magnetic pole teeth in the rotor circumferential direction along which respective rotor facing surfaces are arranged.

3. (Original) An inner rotor motor according to the claim 1, wherein the stator is arranged within 180° with respect to a center angle of the rotor.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A disk device including the inner rotor motor according to claim 1.

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-5 were pending. Claim 4 has been cancelled and Claim 1 rewritten. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tajima (U.S. Patent 5,432,644), Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kurauchi (U.S. Patent 4,769,567), and Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahata (JP 2002-272023). Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of cancelled Claim 4 and submit that pending Claims 1-3 and 5 overcome the rejections.

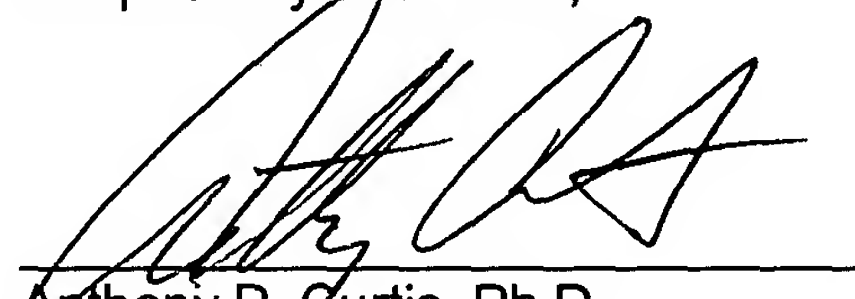
Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahata. 35 USC §102(b) states that "A person shall be entitled to a patent unless the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in ... a foreign country ... more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States." However, Takahata was published on September 20, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants submit that should a rejection of Claims 1 and 4 over Takahata be appropriate, these claims should have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as Takahata was published less than a year before the present application was filed in the United States.

Applicants have previously submitted a certified copy of the priority document along with the application on February 7, 2002. Applicants herein perfect priority by submitting an English translation of the priority document along with certification that the translation is accurate. Applicants submit that as the priority document was filed in Japan on February 23, 2001 and Takahata was filed on March 9, 2001, Takahata must now be removed as a reference. Thus, amended Claim 1, which incorporates the elements of Claim 4, is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AP Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200